Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Further the powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural water supply schemes have also been delegated to the State Governments.

As per the norms adopted for providing drinking water facilities to the rural habitation of the country, forty litres per capita per day (lpcd) is to be provided for humans. In addition to this, a provision of 30 lped for animals could be provided in hot and cold desert/ecosystems in 227 blocks of 36 DDP districts of the country. A drinking water source is to be provided for every 2S0 persons and it should exist within 1.6 km of the habitation in plains or 100 meter elevation in hilly areas.

The rural population of Maharashtra and Gujarat as per the 1991 census is 483.956 lakh and 270.633 lakh respectively. Hence, when calculated on the basis of above norms, the daily requirement of drinking water, for the 1991 census rural population of Maharashtra and Gujarat could be assessed as 19358.24 lakh litres andl0825.40 lakh litres respectively. No assessment of requirement of water for cattle population for DDP districts has been made.

The habitations are categorised as Fully Covered (FQ, Partially Covered (PC), or Not Covered (NC) on the basis of the above norms.

As per the survey conducted by the States to assess the status of availability of drinking water in rural areas inl991—94, updated in 1996-97 and information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat regarding coverage during 1997—99, the status of rural habitation covered with access to drinking water facilities as on 1.4.99 is asunder:

State	NC	PC	FC	Total
Maharashtra	1515	31811	43798	77124
Gujarat	437	4639	25193	30269

The State Governments have been asked to prepare Action Plans to cover all the remaining rural habitations with access to drinking water facilities in the next five years in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance of this Government.

Fake Currency Racket

*350. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of operation of inter-State fake currency notes racket in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount of fake currency notes seized since 1998 and the number of persons apprehended and punished?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI): (a) to (c) Cases of circulation of fake currency notes in the country are reported from time to time. Available information about the amount of fake currency notes seized and persons arrested and punished in connection therewith during 1998 and 1999 is given below:—

Year	Amount of Fake Currency notes seized	No. of persons arrested	No. of. persons punished
1998	1,19,71,871	374	Not available
1999	2,92,19,100	504	Not available

Union Minister in Vigilance Net

*351. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Delhi edition of Statesman dated 22nd Novemner, 1999 under the caption, "Union Minister in Vigilance net", and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item under reference. Facts are being ascertained from the State Government.

Closure of NTC Units in Bihar

*352.SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:WiU the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to

state:

(a) whether it is fact that two NTC units in Bihar, one at Mokama and the other at Gaya, are facing closure; and-

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NTC has two mills in Bihar namely, Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills, Gaya and Bihar Cooperative Spinning & Wvg. Mokameh which are managed by NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd., a subsidiary of NTC Limited. These mills are presently facing shortage of working capital. Due to continuous losses, NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd. along with 7 other subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to BIFR and were declared sick.

The Government had approved a Turn Around Plan for NTC mills in 1995 which envisaged, inter-alia modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores, merger